

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending. Claims 1-2, and 4-7 have been amended. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract due to its length and its failure to be limited to a single paragraph. Applicants have amended the Abstract, thereby reducing its length and limiting the Abstract to a single paragraph. Applicants submit that the Abstract is in compliance and respectfully request that the objection to the Abstract be removed.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-7 were objected to due to claim 1 reciting "a message/action reaction relationship." Applicants have amended claim 1 and respectfully request that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner indicated that Applicants' use of the "/" renders the claim indefinite. Applicants have amended the claims to remove the "/" and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 and 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,412,000 (Riddle), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,499,107 (Gleichauf).

According to Riddle, it is directed to a method for classifying packet flows in a packet communication environment. The method includes applying individual instances of travel classification paradigms to packet network flows based on selectable information obtained from a plurality of layers of a multi-layered communication protocol. See Riddle, column 4, lines 56-60.

According to Gleichauf, it is directed to a method and system for network security using packet analysis. The method includes prioritizing analysis tasks based upon the network information.

According to the present invention, it is directed to an object collaboration apparatus for conducting collaboration processing. In the system of the present invention, an object collaboration relationship can be easily and flexibly changed in the case where there is a description of an action, such as synchronization processing between collaboration apparatuses, related to information on an entity name of an object that transmits a message. See Specification of the Present Invention, page 4, lines 8-12.

Currently amended independent claims 1, 4, 6, and 7 recite, in relevant part, "a message and action relationship storing part for storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message."

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present invention, as defined by

independent claims 1, 4, 6, and 7, is patentable over the references as neither of the references, taken alone or in combination, teaches the feature identified by the above-quoted language of the currently amended claims of the present invention.

Riddle is completely silent as to the feature. Applicants respectfully submit that item 36 of Figure 2 of Gleichauf is merely a data storage space. According to Gleichauf, storage 36 can comprises memory or fixed storage that is the same as or independent of memory upon which network map or signatures reside. A simple storage space is not tantamount to or related to a message and action relationship storing part.

Further, Applicants submit that Gleichauf's storage 36 clearly does not disclose a message and action relationship storing part, "... adapted to search for a corresponding action with a message body as a search key." Item 36 of Gleichauf is simply a standard, passive storage space and does not perform any searching, much less being adapted to search for a corresponding action with a message body as a search key, as in the present invention.

In addition to the foregoing, Applicants submit that neither of the references, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests, "a classifying and matching part that determines whether or not a type of received message is matched with the message type dealt with by the message and action relationship storing part." The classifier 304 of Riddle merely classifies network traffic, which is not tantamount to or even related to performing the determination, as is accomplished in the present invention. See Riddle, column 12, lines 27-31. Gleichauf is completely silent regarding a classifier.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 4, 6, and 7 are patentable over the references, as neither of the references, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the above-identified features. As claims 2-3 and 5 depend from independent claims 1 and 4, respectively, these claims are also patentable over the references, for at least the reasons offered above with respect to the independent claims.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

3 Jan 05

By:


Reginald D. Lucas
Registration No. 46,883

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501